

any reservation that no staffer is more worthy of such an honor.

After several years in private law practice in his native Oregon, Mark came to work for the Finance Committee in January 1990. At that time, Mark thought he would stay for just 2 years and return home. Fortunately for all of us, Mark has been on the Finance Committee staff for nearly 25 years now.

Over these years, he has served with great distinction and has come to be one of the most trusted and respected staffers on Capitol Hill. Indeed, it seems that everyone in Washington knows Mark Prater and seeks him out for advice on tax policy.

Perhaps most importantly, Mark is a kind person who treats everyone with respect. Honestly, he would be the last person to seek out this type of honor, usually opting to share credit for his successes with those he works with.

Mark has worked for a number of prominent chairmen and ranking members on the Finance Committee, including Bob Packwood, William Roth, and CHUCK GRASSLEY. But, while he is always worked for Republican Members, Senators on both sides of the aisle have come to rely on Mark's experience and expertise. This was never more evident than in 2011 when Mark was tapped to serve as the staff director for the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction.

For the past 4 years, I have had the privilege of having Mark on my Finance Committee staff and I have been a direct beneficiary of his knowledge and understanding of not only the Tax Code but of how things can and should work in the Senate. You see, Mark is one of the few staffers who have been around long enough to remember a time when things used to get done around here. In fact, Tax Notes recently published the results of their survey about congressional tax staffers in which Mark was named the best dealmaker and the top Republican tax staffer. I have no doubt that, in the future, his work will be instrumental to helping restore the traditions and productivity of this Chamber.

I want to congratulate Mark for this tremendous honor from the Tax Foundation, along with his wonderful family—his wife Lori and his son James—who should enjoy this honor along with him.

Selfishly, I hope that Mark has many more years of honorable service here in the United States Senate.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Monday, November 17, 2014, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 276, on the motion to concur to the House amendment to S. 1086, the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, due to inclement weather and travel disruptions from Sioux Falls, SD. Had I been present, I would have voted in support of this measure.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, on the evening of Monday, November 17, 2014, the Senate passed S. 1086, a bill reauthorizing the Child Care and Development Block Grant Program, CCDBG.

This bill reauthorizes and amends the CCDBG Act with new requirements for State health and safety standards, including annual, unannounced onsite monitoring of licensed providers, background checks of childcare staff and providers, expanded compliance with child abuse reporting requirements, and enhanced coordination with other programs.

On March 13, 2014, the Senate passed an earlier version of S. 1086, and I voted aye.

Due to a flight delay, I was unable to cast a vote yesterday on its passage. I would have voted aye.

#### REMEMBERING ROD BRADWAY

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service and ultimate sacrifice of Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Officer Rod Bradway. Dedicated, loyal, and above all compassionate to those in need, Officer Bradway had served with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, IMPD, since 2007.

On Friday, September 20, 2013, Officer Bradway responded to a domestic disturbance call at Eagle Pointe Apartments in Indianapolis. Upon arriving, he heard a woman screaming for help from inside her apartment, where she was being held against her will. Officer Bradway quickly called for backup, and without hesitation, forced his way into the apartment. Upon entering, he was immediately shot twice by a perpetrator who waited in ambush. Although severely wounded, Bradway returned fire and injured the shooter before assisting officers arrived. This courageous effort disabled the shooter, avoiding a second ambush. In addition, the woman whom Officer Bradway was rushing to aid, along with her 10-month-old child, emerged safely, largely due to his immediate response and selfless action. Sadly, despite the best efforts of his fellow officers, EMTs, and medical personnel, Officer Bradway, 41, succumbed to his wounds.

"When I heard he was the first in, I wasn't surprised," said Melissa Watkins, a friend and colleague. According to many of his peers and IMPD family members, Officer Bradway always wanted to be the first through the door, ready to help.

An Indiana native, Officer Bradway grew up in Nappanee, where he attended NorthWood High School. Known for his outgoing, gregarious personality, athleticism, and concern for others, Rod participated on both the track and football teams. Many of his high school coaches remembered Rod as athletic and willing to help others. Former coach Jon Andrews said, "I think he loved people and loved athletics, and both of those traits showed up in the

way he built his life." Rod graduated from NorthWood High School in 1991.

Following college, Officer Bradway moved to the Indianapolis area where he joined the Wayne Township Fire Department. He served for 10 years, and while there, he met the love of his life, Jamie, who worked at the Department as an Emergency Medical Technician. They married and had two children, Jonathan and Sierra.

Officer Bradway was a highly decorated policeman who served on the IMPD for 5 years. In February 2012, he received the Medal of Bravery, with which he was honored for apprehending a man who was wielding a knife and threatening others.

In addition to his service to his fellow citizens, Rod was an active supporter of animal rescue efforts. He and his wife traveled to Moore, OK, following the deadly tornado of May 2013 to help locate and gather displaced pets. Together, they delivered hundreds of pounds of pet food, crates, leashes, and other supplies for pets or local animal shelters.

Officer Bradway is survived and deeply missed by his wife Jamie; his son Jonathan; daughter Sierra; his parents Thomas and Sheri Bradway; brother Chip (Shelley) Bradway; mother and father-in-law Teresa and Ronald Gentry; sister-in-law Jaclyn (Donald) Gentry; nieces Ella Bradway and Kaylee Millard; nephew Conner Millard; as well as many other relatives and friends, the IMPD family, the Wayne Township Fire Department family, and Hoosiers throughout the State.

Officer Bradway loved his work, and he gave his life to serve and protect the Citizens of Indianapolis. Although he would have never thought of himself as a hero, Officer Bradway demonstrated his character daily by conducting himself with courage, bravery, compassion, honor, and integrity. Thus, he was a true American hero—in his everyday life as a police officer, husband and father—and in his final call to duty. Let us always remember and emulate the shining example this stalwart, modest yet brave man set for us and honor him for his selfless commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

#### RECOGNIZING SIGNATURE SCHOOL

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to applaud Signature School of Evansville, IN, for being recognized as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized over 7,000 public and nonpublic schools that demonstrate a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity